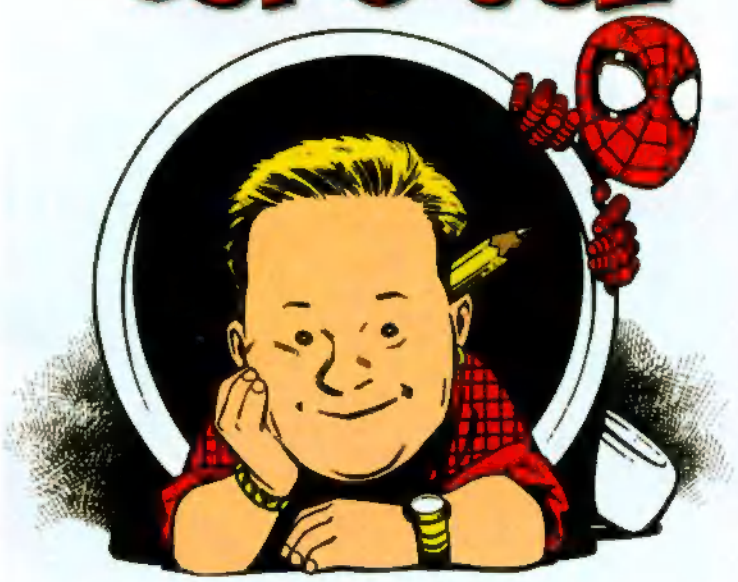
Virginia—Arlington National Cemetery
WILLIAM NASLUN
1918 - 194
JEFFERY MACE
1921 - 194
DID THEY TELL YOU WHO THESE MEN WERE?
WAR HEROES...BUT WHEN THEY SAID YOU SHOULD BE CONTACTED, I ASSUMED IT WAS A BIT MORE THAN THAT.
SO... WHO WERE THEY?
THEY WERE CAPTAIN AMERICA.

CUP O' JOE



Big news, True Believers!

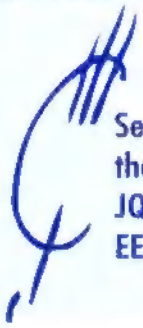
I recently had a dizzying discussion about BLACK PANTHER with a rabid reporter from the New York Times. That's right, bunky, the world's most premier and respected newspaper is covering our newest release chronicling the adventures of T'Challa and the wondrous world of Wakanda!

So, from the pages of the Times of New York to the boulevards of Hollywood we shall go. The start of '05 will bring us not one, but two West Coast luminaries who'll be sinking their celluloid teeth into the world that is Marvel. Acclaimed scribe and director Reginald Hudlin (*House Party, Boomerang, Bernie Mac Show*) and certified Marvel genius John Romita, Jr. promise us a BLACK PANTHER story for the ages, and I personally guarantee you all that there will be events happening in BLACK PANTHER that will effect the Marvel U in *MAJOR* ways in the months to come.

Then from the movies we jump to TV where renowned writer Allan Heinberg (*The O.C., Sex and the City*) gives us the newest title in our "Marvel Next" initiative and what has been called the most anticipated comic of 2005, THE YOUNG AVENGERS! Joining Allan is "Young Gun," Jim Cheung (hey, say that ten times fast, it's fun and it rhymes). Mark my words, this will prove to be Jim's breakout title and everyone's favorite comic by year's end! It's already mine!

Speaking of "Marvel Next," let's not forget the return of Brian K. Vaughan and Adrian Alphona's critically acclaimed RUNAWAYS, you cats have been asking for it and here it is, so enough with the letters already! And finally, before I pass out from hyperventilation, let me introduce another brand new edition to the Marvel U, LIVEWIRES by the legendary Adam Warren.

Whoa, I need to sit down!



See ya in
the funnybooks,
JQ
EEK!

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH

We're back again, folks, and let me just say the response to this new Cap series so far has been overwhelmingly positive. But, please, dear readers, feel free to write us with any of your nitpicks and questions (as a few did this month), not just abject worship. Although, of course, abject worship is always welcome. On to the letters...

This is the first CAPTAIN AMERICA series I have ever picked up, because I always saw Captain America as a little bit childish, comparable to Superman in his Boy Scout predictability. Taking a chance I picked up issue #1 along with IRON MAN #1. This is not at all what I expected. Cap is troubled, has interesting, real world problems, and is suspected of murder by his own government. I love it! I had no idea this character could be this intense. Thanks to Ed and Steve for making my first foray into the world of Captain America a pleasant surprise. Keep up the good work, fellas!

Wes Bailey
Las Vegas, NV

What do you know? A new reader...And I heard they all left us for manga or something. Seriously though, Wes, glad you're on board. I'm trying very hard to make a book that appeals as much to new readers as it does to longtime fans.

After reading the first two issues of CAPTAIN AMERICA, I am hooked. This is the way CAPTAIN AMERICA should be written! Captain America working with S.H.I.E.L.D. and Sharon Carter? Yes! Now we have the possible relationship syndrome. Captain America versus The Red Skull and international terrorists? But, the Red Skull is NOT the main villain? Furthermore, he's dead at the end of issue #1? How can this be? Now we have a mystery. One that is keeping me coming back for the next issue just to find out what is going on. Brilliant!

Jon Pruett
(via e-mail)

A letter of praise? Yes! Jon Pruett hooked on Cap? Excellent!

So, Cap's got a new series. Again. And now the Red Skull is dead. Again. How many times does this make? I forget. Couldn't you come up with a more original plot? And what's the deal with always cancelling [sic] a series before it even gets a decent-size run? This is what, Cap's FIFTH SERIES? SIXTH? Who knows? Let's hope this one lasts for more than a few years.

Mike Axtell
Portage, MI

Hey, hold up, Mike, you forgot to complain about the Cosmic Cube.

You guys are doing an incredible job with this book! I am just completely blown away by how well you guys understand what makes the concept of Captain America work. This is the best book on the stands, and it's not even close, even though there is much greatness being produced these days. Congratulations to all involved!

I love the mystery and suspense angle and the art by Steve Epting was mind-blowing. He is truly the heir to John Buscema. I think he's the best artist in the business, and his Captain America is going to have many people feeling that way. I also must compliment Michael Lark on his great artwork in the flashback/dream sequence. His scratchy linework plays off the old black and white footage nicely, and I'm curious where these dreams that Cap is having are leading to in the story.

Larry Porter
(via e-mail)

Well now, that's more like it. Larry, maybe you'd like to have a word with Mike...

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: What's your favorite movie that you know is actually bad?

Ed Brubaker: *Ghosts of Mars*—the perfect distillation of why John Carpenter is great and terrible all at once, and Ice Cube has all his best dialog in this one.

Steve Epting: *Space Mutiny*—stock footage from *Battlestar Galactica*, Reb Brown (Captain America himself!), and the "acting" of John Phillip Law, which has to be seen to be believed.

Michael Lark: *Con Air*—Is it a comedy? An action film? Who knows? But I laughed my @$$ off at it—never have so many good character actors delivered so many bad lines. And a stuffed bunny.

Frank D'Armata: *Hulk*—for those parts where you see the everlovin' Hulk running through the desert floor, raising hell, and leaping for miles. I have to change my underwear after that!!

Molly Lazer: *Troll II*—worst acting EVER, bad sets, horrid costumes, dumb plot, and there aren't even any trolls in it. And yet I've seen it five times.

Stephanie Moore: *Gone In Sixty Seconds*—so formulaic you can predict everything that happens, down to the dog that you know will eventually eat the all-important laser-cut car keys. But it makes a great drinking game!

Andy Schmidt: *The 13th Warrior*—Antonio Banderas is wrong, a great director botched a not-so-good script, but something about it is just innately cool.

Tom Brevoort: *Back to the Future, Part Two*—one of the best comic book movies ever done, but it's so interested in showing you how clever it is that the characters all turn into cartoons. But it IS clever, and I like cartoons, so...

I have always been a great fan of Cap and Bucky's exploits and felt it was wrong that he was supposedly killed off. He has such great potential in the modern world. I read YOUNG AVENGERS, and Jameson is wrong. Bucky was 18 going on 19 in 1945. Bucky became Cap's partner in early 1941, before Pearl Harbor. He was a young street-smart teenager who felt he had to prove himself as his father had in joining the army. Even though Bucky faked his age, they let him become a PVT. And they passed him off as a 17-year-old. Now its been commonly known he was a teen in '41. By '45 he had to have been 18 or 19. So he was not a child when he "supposedly" died. Please correct this.

John Nicklos
Philadelphia, PA

As you can see from Cap's conversation earlier this issue, you are correct about Bucky being older, though your math is off—I'd say he was 16 in 1941, which makes him 20 in 1945. That's the difference between Cap and Bucky and other hero/sidekick relationships. They were not father/son, or mentor/ward, they were more like brothers, since Steve was only three or four years older than his partner.

And that's it for this month, but stop back by for some way-out WWII action next month, and keep those cards and letters coming!

Ed Brubaker

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